

stretched so thin it will take years and tens of billions of dollars to repair and rebuild? Did they intend for the Taliban to reassert control over parts of Afghanistan? Did they intend the historic, record-breaking deficits that will burden our children and our grandchildren?

Is there not one single decision or policy they might consider changing?

This is why we need new leadership and new direction, Madam Speaker. We need to change course and we need to do it now before our resources and the precious lives of our troops and our citizens are further sacrificed on the altar of these failed policies.

WAR IN IRAQ AND HOMELAND SECURITY TOP ISSUES FACING OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, the two most important issues facing our country right now are the seemingly endless and tragic war in Iraq and the need to ensure America's safety here at home.

President Bush's speech to the Nation last night regrettably demonstrates that either he doesn't understand the security challenges we face, or that he is intentionally misleading the American people for partisan political purposes.

This is a tough election year, and I can understand why the President and the Republican Party are desperately clinging to a campaign of misinformation, mudslinging and fear, given their failures on the economy, the war and homeland security. But their campaign is not responsible, and it ill serves our troops, our people and our future.

The President continues to try to convince Americans that the war in Iraq is part of the war on terror. Last week, the President said, and I quote, one of the hardest parts of my job is to try and connect the war in Iraq to the war on terror.

I can understand why it is so difficult for the President, considering that Saddam Hussein's regime and Iraq were not responsible for the attacks of 9/11 or the war on terror. The only prewar connection between Iraq and Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda was that they were enemies. The bipartisan Senate intelligence committee report just released last week states that Saddam Hussein distrusted Osama bin Laden so much that he, quote, issued a general order that Iraq should not deal with al Qaeda.

And, more importantly, while there was not an Iraq/al Qaeda connection before the invasion, certainly there appears to be one now. And that is what the President would say makes Iraq the central front in the war on terror.

But, once again, the President is wrong.

First, the only role the U.S. occupation in Iraq currently plays in the war on terror is making it worse. Our presence in Iraq has created more terrorists than we have captured or killed. In fact, the U.S. occupation of Iraq is one of al Qaeda's chief recruitment tools, and the American people have caught on to this.

According to a recently released poll, by a 45 to 32 percent margin, people believe that reducing America's overseas military presence, rather than expanding it, will have a greater effect on reducing the threat of terrorism.

The most effective weapon against terrorists is cooperation among nations in sharing critical intelligence to round up and disrupt terrorist organizations and activities. That effort is hampered by the recruitment and growth of terrorists because of the Iraq war.

It is time for the President to be honest with the American people and to admit that the biggest threat to Iraq's future is the presence of U.S. troops fanning the flames of Sunni-Shiite civil war. And one of the biggest threats to the United States' security is the powerful motivation our presence in Iraq gives terrorists who seek to do us harm.

The President and this Congress have wasted resources, time and precious lives in a diversion from making Americans safer, and it has been an enormous and costly diversion by this administration. But the facts are clear that we have not done enough to make America safer. In fact, we have done just the opposite by getting bogged down in the war in Iraq and fanning the flames of hatred and violence.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Creator of all and Savior of those who put their trust in You, in this era of post-9/11, we pray that the

children of this generation and their children's children may never have to experience another day like the one that flooded our TV screens yesterday.

Protect and guide this Nation to a new security built upon human integrity and communal solidarity with all who love freedom and human dignity while respecting the life and beliefs of others.

Empower the Members of Congress and governments around the world to establish just laws and seek the common good that will lead to ways of equity and peace.

Let our children dream dreams, equip themselves with the best education possible and become creative leaders of tomorrow because they are aligned with Your will, Your power and give You the glory now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 449. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic 1946 season of Major League Baseball Hall of Fame member Bob Feller and his return from military service to the United States.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we came together to remember the day that will define our generation. September 11 was a day that forever changed the way we look at the world.

We learned about the amazing strength and character of the American people. During the events of that day, we saw astonishing courage and the very measure of the American spirit that our enemy had sought to destroy. We also learned that day there was a great evil out in the world that

wished to see our collapse. Their intent was not only to kill thousands of innocent civilians, but also to strike fear in the hearts of all Americans. These ruthless murderers thought they could break us, but they underestimated the will of the American people.

The morning that war was brought to our soil, we stood up as one proud Nation and declared that we will not allow those that use tools of terror and death to change who we are as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, 5 years later we remain steadfastly committed to our battle against an enemy who wishes to use terror to destroy democracy and freedom.

May God continue to richly bless the United States of America.

IMPRISONMENT OF CONG THANH DO BY SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

(Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on August 14, the communist government in Vietnam arrested an American, my constituent, Cong Thanh Do, while he was visiting as a tourist in Vietnam with his family. It took a full week for the State Department to even be notified of his arrest, and more than 2 weeks before the Vietnamese Government even allowed the State Department to meet with Mr. Do.

The State Department has repeatedly assured me that Mr. Do is nothing more than a peaceful democracy and human rights activist who has written articles posted on the Internet while he was living in the United States.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has had the gall to keep this American citizen imprisoned and incommunicado for nearly a month. At the same time, they are making gestures to the United States of America suggesting that they should have permanent normal trade relations with us.

It is absolutely unbelievable that the communist government would think we would entertain that while they keep our American locked up.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we marked the fifth anniversary of an unparalleled tragedy in our Nation's history.

On September 11, 2001, we were suddenly made aware of our vulnerability to a new and dangerous enemy, an enemy that attacked the World Trade Center in 1993, our embassies across Africa in 1998, and the USS Cole in 2000.

Charity poured from the hearts of every American and from allies around the world. Firefighters and law en-

forcement personnel heroically put their lives at risk to save our countrymen. We were united in the resolve to defeat those who terrorized us.

Five years and one day removed from September 11, Islamic militants today stormed the U.S. Embassy in Syria. While we are thankful no Americans were harmed, this attack serves as a sober reminder that we are in a global war with Islamofascists. We must maintain our commitments to protect American families and seek justice for those who seek death to America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind Members not to traffic the well while another Member is addressing the House.

COMANDANTE CALDERON, ANOTHER FOX

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, more news from the second front, the border war continues. He is not even in office yet, but he is already planning the invasion into America like Generalissimo Fox did.

Commander Felipe Calderon's election is being disputed and his opponent is trying to set up a parallel government. But his top concern is what many Americans call our biggest crisis, illegal entry into the United States.

Instead of dealing with the turmoil, corruption and economic problems in Mexico, Calderon is vowing to push immigration amnesty through our Congress by letting millions of Mexicans into the United States.

Generalissimo Fox tried unsuccessfully to intimidate Congress by pushing an amnesty bill, but Commander Calderon is even more arrogant by telling the press the White House is even on board.

This undeclared war against the United States results in making Mexico's problem an American problem.

Our Nation needs to understand that we are being invaded, and we must be engaged in this undeclared war by having the moral will to protect our borders.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and salute the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; its chairman, Representative KENDRICK

MEEK; and President, Dr. Elsie Scott on an outstanding weekend of policy discussions and other meaningful educational and social activity.

Much of the credit for this year's success goes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), conference co-chairs.

I also commend all of those who attended and thank all of the experts and leaders who led the discussion. It was a great weekend. Hats off to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, last night our President gave a prime time address for the remembrance of September 11, and I know the media is working overtime right now criticizing that speech and saying it was political.

I would suggest it is the media and not the American people who are fixated on that. The American people want to know what we are doing to make this Nation more secure. I don't think the speech was overtly political, but let's say for the sake of argument that it was.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are two political parties voting on these security measures, and it boils down to this: you either support the PATRIOT Act legislation or you don't. You either support terrorist surveillance and terrorist tribunals or you don't. You either support aggressively fighting terrorists by using our military or you don't.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans voted for these measures. We supported them. And some across the aisle voted for them too; but, the liberals in the Democratic Party don't support these measures; and in my opinion, yes, that would make them weak on security. That is not a partisan political statement; it's the truth.

NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republicans' determination for complete success in the war on terror and the policies we are putting forth to prevent further terrorist attacks.

The great statesman, Winston Churchill, said: "Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events."